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4 March 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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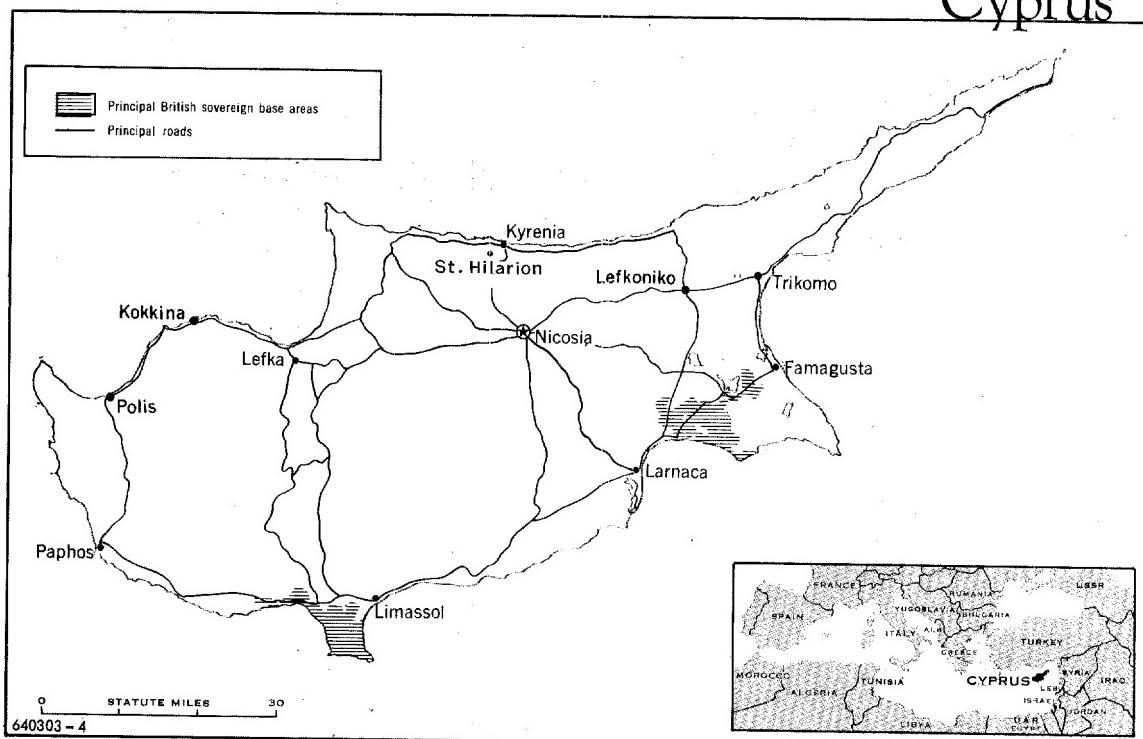
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Cyprus



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DAILY BRIEF

*Cyprus: Difficulties in obtaining troops could threaten the early dispatch of an international force to Cyprus, following the anticipated approval today of the UN Security Council resolution.

Of the countries Secretary General Thant has approached--the Nordic countries, Ireland, and Canada--Sweden appears to be the pivotal contributor. The Norwegian, Finnish, and Danish UN delegates have affirmed that their countries' participation depends on Sweden's. The Norwegian UN delegate has stated that Ireland and "even the Canadians would not be likely to contribute if the Swedes are not in."

Sweden's reluctance apparently stems from a belief that its troops would merely provide "window dressing" for a predominantly NATO force, and from a disinclination to be involved in what may prove to be another long-drawn-out peace-keeping operation.

Contrary to earlier reports of Indian reluctance, New Delhi now seems to be "leaving the door open" for participation in the force.

The British have indicated that they would be willing to accept a command arrangement placing Indian General Gyani in charge of the force, with a British officer serving as his deputy. Gyani has been on Cyprus since late January as Thant's personal observer. Ankara, which views India as

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sympathetic to the Greek Cypriots, may object strongly to British abdication of command to Gyani.

(A Greek-language newspaper in Nicosia reports that Makarios has asked the British to help crush the "rebellion" of the Turkish Cypriots or to withdraw their troops to the British sovereign bases. The US army attaché reports the British have been expecting this communication and are "very concerned.")

(The Cypriot Government is described as determined to undertake the peace-keeping task itself within two weeks--presumably whether or not the UN force materializes. The government will call on the Turkish insurgents to surrender their arms or be "isolated and struck.")

A US Embassy officer in Nicosia has reported that Vice President Kuchuk appears exhausted by the problem facing the Turkish community. He is described as bitter over past failures of the Turkish Government to intervene on Cyprus to protect Turkish Cypriot lives.

He again emphasized his belief in partition or federation as the only solution to the Cyprus problem but appeared to have no hope that either would be accepted. He forecast a two-stage development: (1) the renewal of armed conflict between the communities; (2) the departure of the Turkish community from Cyprus.

(continued)

Following the signing of a Cypriot-Soviet air agreement last week end, the Greek Cypriot press has generally lauded the USSR. Press reports state that a Cypriot Government delegation will go to Moscow on 6 March to discuss possible "military aid" in case Turkey invades. Makarios will probably continue using the threat of closer relations with Moscow in an attempt to wring concessions from the West.

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Zanzibar: Foreign Minister Babu seems to have become the dominant figure in the new regime and it appears increasingly doubtful that the trend toward Communist control can be arrested.

President Karume, an African nationalist oriented toward neutralism, enjoys great popularity, but he has failed to exercise the power of his office.

Babu has been consolidating his position by appointing pro-Communist henchmen to important posts. In at least one instance--the recognition of East Germany--he appears to have directly overruled Karume. Babu has been in Ghana the past two days, possibly seeking trained administrators to staff Zanzibar ministries.

A more settled atmosphere has been developing, partly because of "Field Marshal" Okello's two-week absence from the island. If this climate continues, the regime may be able to focus on its serious economic problems. East German experts who are surveying the island's needs are apparently prepared to help in the construction of modern housing--one of the regime's priority economic goals.

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*Gabon: The situation remains tense in Gabon where President Leon Mba appears to be pursuing a hard line toward opposition elements, presumably with French approval.

Mba arrested his principal political opponent Jean Aubame on 2 March. This action will probably increase anti-government and anti-French feeling in Libreville, which has been paralyzed for two days by a general strike. Mobs of anti-Mba demonstrators were dispersed yesterday and increased numbers of French troops were in evidence at key points.

Before the demonstrations began on 1 March, Paris reportedly was urging Mba to broaden his government and possibly accept political opponents into a coalition. However, the arrest of Aubame and the prominent role of French troops in suppressing the continuing anti-Mba demonstrations suggest that the French now may be prepared to back him in punitive action against his political opponents.

A French Foreign Ministry official yesterday played down the significance of the demonstrations. He said the purpose of continued French action in Gabon was to allow Mba to carry out his investigation of the 18 February coup attempt and to hold elections as scheduled in April.

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NOTES

Iraq: The dismissal of Brigadier General Hardan Tikriti from his posts as defense minister and deputy commander of the armed forces removes the last Baath Party member holding significant office from the government. The Baath in Iraq is fragmented and largely leaderless, and has put up no real resistance to President Arif's gradual purge of party members. Arif remains fearful of a Baathist assassination attempt, but the party now appears to lack both the will and capacity to act.

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*Saudi Arabia - Egypt: Talks in Riyadh between a high-level Egyptian delegation and Saudi Crown Prince Faysal resulted in agreement to resume diplomatic relations. However, it appears from the joint statement issued yesterday at the conclusion of the talks that little progress was made in resolving differences over Yemen. According to the statement, Faysal will meet with Nasir in Cairo late next month for further talks.

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